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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CANADA.

(EGLISE EVANGELIQUE DU CANADA.)

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EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CANADA,
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Adopted at the Meeting of Synod in July, 1863,
after having been transmitted to and approved of by
the congregations therewith connected :

CHAPTER I.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

The EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CANADA ADOPTS
as the expression of its faith the following profession :

We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old
and New Testament are inspired of God,* and consti-
tute the only and infallible rule of faith and of life.

We believe in one God, the Father, Son and Holy
Ghost, Creator of Heaven and earth.

The Father in his infinite and eternal mercy,
when we were entirely lost, in consequence of Adam's
disobedience, and justly condemned on account of sin,
has so loved the world that He gave His only begotten
Son.

The Son, the Word which was in the beginning
with God, and that was truly God above all things
eternally blessed, became truly man, God manifest in
the flesh. Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between
God and man. He has perfectly redeemed us from
eternal condemnation by his death upon the Cross,
having offered himself to God as a victim and an

* We reject as uninspired the Books known as the Apocrypha.

offering of a sweet smelling savour. Delivered for our offences, He is risen for our justification, He ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God to make intercession for us.

The *Holy Ghost* whom the Son has sent in the name of the Father, regenerates the redeemed, elect according to the foreknowledge of God. He dwells in them, leads them to understand his Word, and in holiness without which none shall see the Lord. He is given to all those who ask him. It is by Him that Jesus Christ directs and governs the church, which is His spouse and His body.

Jesus Christ calls every man to repentance, saving fully, freely, and without any merits of their own, all those who believe in His name, and who draw nigh to God by Him.

We look from heaven for the Lord Jesus Christ who will return and introduce us into glory. He will raise the dead, judge the world in righteousness, and render to every one according to his deeds; giving life eternal to the righteous, and condemning the unrighteous to eternal punishment.

We believe that the two sacraments, of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, such as we find them instituted by Jesus Christ, in His Word are of permanent obligation in the church of Christ.

Such is our faith. We engage to make every effort to propagate it. At the same time we offer the hand of fellowship to all those who, in whatever place and under whatever name, love the Lord Jesus Christ and call upon Him in sincerity; and consider them as members of the Universal Church. To the Father who loved us, to the Son who hath washed us from our sins in His own blood, and to the Holy Ghost, our Comforter, be praise and glory for ever. Amen.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE CHURCH.

Art. 1. The Synod recommends to those who, dwelling in different localities in connexion with the French Canadian Mission, have made profession of faith in Christ and in the Word of God, to organize themselves, if they have not already done so, into Pœdo-Baptist Churches upon the basis of this Confession and Constitution.

Art. 2. These Churches shall have the right to choose their pastor or pastors, with whom they shall associate, not less than two members taken from their midst, and, who, with the pastor or pastors, shall form a Consistory or council.

Art. 3. The Pastor shall be ordained and installed into his charge according to the form now used, or as it shall seem fit to the Ministers already ordained.

The members of the Consistory, installed in their charge by the Pastor, shall be elected for the period of three years, in such a way that a third must be elected every year.

Art. 4. The Pastor can resign his charge; but he cannot, in any case be dismissed without the consent of the Synod and of the majority of the members of the Church.

Art. 5. The Consistory will receive the application for admission by those who desire to become members of the Church, and if they are found to possess the necessary requirements, they shall be presented to the Church, and if no objection is received in the course of a month, they shall be received publicly into full communion with the Church.

Art. 6. If any member is found leading a disorderly life, and living contrary to the precepts of the Gos-

pel, or falling away from divine truth such as acknowledged by the Church, the Consistory being informed of it, shall reprimand him privately with love and kindness, and if necessary, suspend him from the privilege of the Lord's Supper. If, however, the warning remains without effect, the Consistory will have therein a proof of his guiltiness, and after a certain time granted to him to repent, and having informed the Church of the same, shall pronounce his exclusion. If the guilty brother or sister repent, and if the Consistory is satisfied of his or her sincerity, he or she can be readmitted, according to the manner prescribed in the 5th Article.

Art. 7. The Consistory shall regulate all the details of public worship and shall have the general superintendence of the business of the congregation, but cannot make any material alteration, without the express consent of the Church, and cannot alter this Confession and Constitution.

Art. 8. If desirable, the Church shall name a Committee, elected every year, and that can be re-elected, to which it shall confide financial business. This Committee shall make a report once or twice a year at a church meeting convened for this purpose.

Art. 9. The Church welcome, to the Lord's table every Christian in fellowship with an evangelical church.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE SYNOD.

Art. 1. The delegates of the Churches, as also the missionaries of the French Canadian Mission who accept this Confession and Constitution, will form the General Synod which shall meet once or twice a year, as they shall judge necessary.

Art. 2. This Synod shall be composed of the Pastors and of the ordained or non-ordained missionaries, and also of two delegates chosen in each church, either among the members of the Consistory or among the missionaries

Art. 3. This Synod shall elect every year a President or Moderator, a Vice-President, and Secretary, and in general, shall conduct publicly its business; shall name the time and place of their next session. The following are the powers and the duties of the Synod:—

1st. They shall receive in each of their ordinary sessions a written report of the position and progress of each church.

2nd. They shall vote upon the admission of new churches.

3rd. They shall give their judgment upon any difficulty which may arise in any church, having a tendency to destroy edification and prevent progress; which judgment they shall communicate to the said church. Any church member who has not, or who thinks not, to have received justice from the Consistory, can appeal to the judgment of the Synod.

4th. They shall take a general interest in the work of the French Canadian Mission; shall make the progress of the Gospel their principal effort, and from time to time shall present to the Committee of the said Mission such recommendations or suggestions which they shall find convenient for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

5th. This Constitution is considered sufficient for the actual state of the Evangelical churches, and can be altered and modified; nevertheless, no amendment, modification, or addition can be made to any article whatever, without having been first brought before

the Synod, and by them presented to the Consistories of the said churches, whose approbation they demand. If the majority of the Consistories of said churches approve of such amendment, modification, or addition, the Synod can adopt it as a permanent article of their Constitution; but if the majority disapproves of it, it shall be rejected.

6th. The Synod shall be opened by a discourse from the Moderator or President of the last Synod, and shall consecrate a part of their sessions to religious exercises.

Art. 4. Every pastor at his ordination or at his installation, and every member of the Consistory at his election, shall make a public adhesion to the Confession of faith and, every church desirous of being admitted shall also make such a profession.

Art. 5. At the close of each Synod, a Commission shall be appointed to make all the necessary arrangements for the sessions of the next Synod, to which the said Commission shall give a report of its proceedings.

Art. 6. Persons whose religious views are opposed to Poedo-Baptism, if they possess the other requirements for membership, shall be admitted into full communion with the Church; however, it shall be understood and agreed to by the said persons, that they will not make any attempt to trouble the Church, or any of its members, by agitating their particular opinions.

Art. 7. Every question or subject shall be decided by majority of votes of the members present—one-half of the members forming a sufficient number for the decision of any subject.

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